

MARVEL


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HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE



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At the end of existence, Franklin Richards asked Galactus to tell him the story of their universe as they wait for its heat death. Galactus began with the first stirrings of life and left off with the formation of a new team of X-Men that included Jean Grey resurrected as the Phoenix. Now, the story continues...

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I DON'T
REALLY THINK OF
YOU AS SOMEONE ABLE
TO EXPERIENCE
FEAR.

OF MY
FATHER,
MAYBE.
BUT...

THERE'S
SOMETHING ELSE, I'M
SURPRISED THAT A COSMIC
BEING OF YOUR STATION--AN
IMMORTAL UNIVERSAL FORCE
WHO VISITED MY WORLD SO
INFREQUENTLY--REMEMBERS.
I DON'T KNOW, HOWARD
THE DUCK AND
KID COLT.

WERE YOU
PAYING THAT
MUCH ATTENTION
TO EARTH THE
WHOLE TIME?

NO. MUCH
OF WHAT I
RELATE TO YOU NOW
IS INFORMATION
GLEANED FROM
THE PLANET
T-37X.


SO THE
WATCHERS
TOLD YOU
ALL TH--

NO, OF
COURSE NOT.
YOU LEARNED IT BY
CONSUMING
THEM.

THAT'S
A TRICK YOU
PICKED UP LATE IN
THE GAME, IT MAKES
SENSE, BUT--NO
OFFENSE--
BROODER.

GALAN, DO
YOU WANT TO
STOP? IF WE'RE GOING
TO ENTER THE NEXT
UNIVERSE TOGETHER,
YOU'LL NEED YOUR
STRENGTH.

LET...
...LET ME
CONTINUE.



THE PHOENIX FORCE, A COSMIC ENERGY NOW INTERTWINED WITH HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS AND EMOTIONS, SLOWLY SURRENDERED TO ITS DESTRUCTIVE IMPULSES.


AS DARK PHOENIX, THE FALSE JEAN GREY HOSTING IT BEGAN TO EXERT INCALCULABLE POWER IN MALEVOLENT WAYS.

HER JEAN GREY PERSONA MANAGED TO SUBDUCE DARK PHOENIX, BUT IT WOULD BRING HER NO PEACE.

HER CORRUPTED SELF'S OBLITERATION OF A DISTANT INHABITED STAR SYSTEM AND A SHI'AR BATTLE CRUISER CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF THE SHI'AR EMPIRE AND ITS PRINCESS, LILANDRA, WHO VOWED TO MAKE PHOENIX PAY FOR HER ACT OF GENOCIDE.

IN THE ENSUING COMBAT, PHOENIX ONCE MORE FELT HERSELF LOSING CONTROL OF HER DARK SIDE.

RATHER THAN RISK HAVING DARK PHOENIX CLAIM MORE LIVES, PHOENIX COMMITTED SUICIDE.



AROUND THE EARTH, OTHER
HEROES EMERGED. TEENAGER
RICHARD RIDER WAS RECRUITED
BY THE KANDARIAN SPACE MILITIA,
THE **NOVA CORPS**.

IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS LIFE,
MERCENARY **MARC SPECTOR**
WAS BEHOLDEN TO THE
EGYPTIAN GOD OF THE MOON,
KHONSU, BECOMING THE
MOON KNIGHT.

SIMILARLY AT DEATH'S DOOR,
BRIAN BRADDOCK WAS
APPOINTED TO THE ROLE OF
BRITAIN'S PROTECTOR AND
CHAMPION BY THE SPIRITS OF
MERLYN AND HIS DAUGHTER,
ROMA, CHOOSING THE AMULET
OF RIGHT OVER THE SWORD OF
NIGHT. BRADDOCK BECAME
CAPTAIN BRITAIN.

SINGER ALISON BLAIRE,
A MUTANT WHO COULD
CONVERT SOUND INTO
LIGHT, BEGAN CALLING
HERSELF **DAZZLER**.

JESSICA DREW--WHO
AWOKE FROM DECADES OF
SUSPENDED ANIMATION WITH
SPIDER-LIKE POWERS ISSUED
BY HER FATHER, JONATHAN, AND
THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY--TOOK
THE NAME **SPIDER-WOMAN**.

AND **CAROL DANVERS**, CHILD
OF A HUMAN FATHER AND AN ALIEN
MOTHER, BEGAN WORKING UNDER
THE NAME **MS. MARVEL** ONCE
HER SUPERHUMAN POTENTIAL WAS
UNLEASHED BY KREE TECHNOLOGY.




CHRONAL TRAVELER
MICHAEL KORYAC,
SEARCHING FOR POWER,
FORCED HIS WAY INTO A
STARSHIP FEW HAD EVER
SEEN: MY OWN.

WHILE ABOARD, HE
ABSORBED THE POWER
COSMIC AND BECAME A
GODLIKE BEING BENT ON
RESHAPE THE EARTH INTO
HIS OWN PERSONAL UTOPIA.

HIS GOAL BROUGHT HIM TO
BATTLE WITH THE AVENGERS
AND FELLOW TIME-TRAVELERS
THE GUARDIANS OF THE
GALAXY, EARTH'S 31ST
CENTURY DEFENDERS.

KORYAC ACTUALLY SUCCEEDED IN
MURDERING THE GUARDIANS AND THE
AVENGERS BOTH, ONLY AFTER HIS LOVER,
CARINA--DAUGHTER OF THE ELDER OF
THE UNIVERSE, **THE COLLECTOR**--
EXPRESSED SHOCK OVER THE VIOLENCE
HE USED DID KORYAC TURN HIS POWER ON
HIMSELF, REVIVING THE DEAD HEROES IN
AN ACT OF NOBILITY AS HIS BODY WENT
DORMANT, AND WAS BELIEVED DEAD.



THIS **FOURTH HOST** OF CELESTIALS
RETURNED TO PASS FINAL
JUDGMENT ON EARTH'S RIGHT TO
EXIST. ODIN GATHERED THOR, THE
ETERNALS AND THE COMBINED LIFE
FORCE OF ALL ASGARDIANS TO
BATTLE THEM, ONLY TO BE DEFEATED.

ULTIMATELY, THE EARTH
MOTHER **GAEA** WAS ABLE TO
SEND THE CELESTIALS AWAY
AFTER RENDERING TO THEM A
"GIFT" OF TWELVE SPECIAL
HUMAN VOLUNTEERS
REPRESENTING HUMANITY'S
NOBLEST ACHIEVEMENTS, THUS
PROVING EARTH'S WORTH.



WHEN HIS COUSIN, ATTORNEY JENNIFER WALTERS, WAS GUNNED DOWN IN A MOB-RELATED SHOOTING, BRUCE BANNER SAVED HER LIFE WITH A TRANSFUSION OF HIS OWN GAMMA-IRRADIATED BLOOD.

SIMILAR TO BANNER, ADRENALINE OFTEN TURNED WALTERS INTO THE NIGHTY SHE-HULK.

HENRY PYM BEGAN A TRAGIC DOWNWARD SPIRAL AS HIS MENTAL ILLNESS FLARED. AFTER A NEAR-CATASTROPHIC JUDGMENT ON THE BATTLEFIELD, THE AVENGERS BEGAN COURT-MARTIAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST PYM, SPARKING A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN THAT CAUSED HIM TO LASH OUT AT HIS WIFE, JANET, AFTER WHICH SHE DIVORCED HIM.



IT WOULD BE SOME TIME BEFORE PYM WOULD BE ABLE TO SUBDUCE HIS INNER DEMONS.



WITH THE INHUMANS GROWING INCREASINGLY ILL FROM MANMADE POLLUTION, THEY RELOCATED ATTILAN TO THE BLUE AREA OF THE MOON.






AFTER BEING EXPOSED TO A CANISTER OF EXPERIMENTAL NERVE GAS BY THE VILLAIN NITRO, NOT EVEN THE RESILIENCE AND ALIEN PHYSIOLOGY OF CAPTAIN MAR-VELL COULD STAVE OFF A FATAL CANCER MUTATED BY THE PHOTONIC ENERGY OF HIS NEGA-BANDS.



CHARLES XAVIER RE-OPENED HIS SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS TO A NEW GENERATION OF MUTANTS.

EARLY STUDENTS INCLUDED THE SUPER-STRONG *SUNSPOT*, THE LUPINE *WOLFBANE*, THE ROCKET-POWERED *CANNONBALL*, THE ILLUSION CASTER *PSYCHE*, A.K.A. *MIRAGE*, AND *KARMA*, WHO COULD MENTALLY POSSESS OTHERS.




A vertical comic book panel featuring Elektra Natchios. She has long, wavy purple hair and is wearing a red top with a black spiderweb pattern. A pink triangle earring is visible. In the background, a pink playing card (the 7 of Spades) is shown with blood splatters. At the bottom, a character with a red mask and a circular forehead emblem is partially visible.


DAREDEVIL'S FIRST GREAT LOVE, THE ASSASSIN ELEKTRA NATCHIOS, WAS MURDERED BY HIS ENEMY BULLSEYE, THOUGH SHE WAS LATER RESURRECTED BY THE HAND.

A vertical comic book panel featuring Monica Rambeau. She has dark skin and curly hair, wearing a white and grey costume with a large black starburst emblem on the chest. The background is blue with black dots.

NEW HEROES ADOPTED OLD IDENTITIES. FORMER NEW ORLEANS HARBOR PATROL LIEUTENANT MONICA RAMBEAU ACQUIRED THE ABILITY TO TRANSFORM HERSELF INTO ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY AND TOOK THE NAME CAPTAIN MARVEL, LATER SPECTRUM.

A vertical comic book panel showing James Rhodes in his Iron Man armor. He is wearing a yellow helmet and a red and gold suit. The background is a dark, industrial setting.

JAMES RHODES DONNED THE IRON MAN ARMOR FOR THE FIRST TIME.

A vertical comic book panel showing Thor in his red and blue armor, holding his hammer Mjolnir. He is fighting a large, green, scaly monster with yellow eyes. The background is dark with stars.

ALIEN BETA RAY BILL PROVED WORTHY OF THE HAMMER OF THOR.



IN ORDER TO INVESTIGATE THE NATURE OF DESIRE, A SENSATION FOREIGN TO HIM, THE NEAR-OMNIPOTENT BEYONDER ASSEMBLED A GREAT NUMBER OF EARTH'S HEROES AND VILLAINS ON A DISTANT WORLD AND COMMANDED THEM TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH; THE VICTOR WOULD BE GRANTED ANYTHING THEY WISHED.

IN THE MIST OF THIS "SECRET WAR," VICTOR VON DOOM STOLE THE BEYONDER'S POWER BUT WAS ULTIMATELY DEFEATED WHEN HIS OWN PARANOID SUBCONSCIOUS ENABLED THE BEYONDER TO RECLAIM IT.



ON THIS BATTLEWORLD, SPIDER-MAN HAD REPLACED HIS DAMAGED COSTUME WITH A BLACK ONE MADE OF A STRANGE FABRIC RESPONSIVE TO HIS MENTAL COMMANDS.

ONLY LATER WAS HE TO LEARN THAT THE "FABRIC" WAS, IN FACT, AN ALIEN SYMBIOTE WHO WOULD EVENTUALLY BOND WITH DISGRACED REPORTER EDDIE BROCK AND BECOME KNOWN AS VENOM.



ALEX, JULIE, JACK AND KATIE POWER WERE ORDINARY CHILDREN GRANTED SUPERHUMAN POWERS BY AN ALIEN DEFENDER. DESPITE THE SOMETIMES-RANDOM NATURE OF THESE ABILITIES, THEY CHAMPIONED JUSTICE AS **POWER PACK**.



THE AVENGERS EXPANDED THEIR OPERATIONS, FORMING A SECOND TEAM ON THE AMERICAN WEST COAST.



HOMELESS RUNAWAYS **TYRONE JOHNSON** AND **TANDY BOWEN** BECAME UNWILLING TEST SUBJECTS FOR A NEW DRUG, WHICH INADVERTENTLY GRANTED THEM POWER OVER DARKNESS AND LIGHT.


AS **CLOAK** AND **DAGGER**, THEY DECLARED WAR ON DRUG CRIME AND PLEDGED TO PROTECT OTHER YOUNG RUNAWAYS LIKE THEMSELVES.



JEAN GREY'S DORMANT BODY WAS FOUND BY THE AVENGERS AND REJUVENATED BY REED RICHARDS, EAGER TO CONTINUE PROFESSOR X'S MISSION OF REPAIRING THE STRAIN BETWEEN HUMANS AND MUTANTS. SHE GATHERED HER ORIGINAL CLASSMATES-- CYCLOPS, BEAST, ICEMAN AND ANGEL-- AND TOGETHER THEY CREATED X-FACTOR.

ONE OF THEIR EARLIEST BATTLES WAS AGAINST MISTER SINISTER'S MARAUDERS, WHO ATTEMPTED TO ERADICATE THE MORLOCKS, AN UNDERGROUND MUTANT COMMUNITY.

THOUGH MANY OTHER HEROES JOINED X-FACTOR IN OPPOSING THIS "MUTANT MASSACRE," ITS CONSEQUENCE LED TO THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ANGEL INTO THE SAVAGE ARCHANGEL, THE NEAR-DESTRUCTION OF THE X-MEN AND COUNTLESS MUTANTS SLAIN.



BARON ZEMO AND HIS MASTERS OF EVIL LAID SIEGE TO AVENGERS MANSION WITH AN ATTACK THAT NEARLY ANNIHILATED THE TEAM AND DESTROYED THEIR HEADQUARTERS.

THERE ARE SOME WHO SAY THAT THE AVENGERS' EVENTUAL VICTORY WAS PERHAPS THEIR FINEST MOMENT.

WHEN TONY STARK LEARNED THAT HIS IRON MAN TECHNOLOGY HAD BEEN REPRODUCED AND WAS BEING USED BY HIS ENEMIES, HE BECAME OBSESSED WITH PREVENTING HIS CREATIONS FROM HARMING OTHERS.

TRAVELING THE WORLD, HE WAGED AN "ARMOR WAR" TO FIND AND ERADICATE THE STOLEN TECHNOLOGY-- BUT WITH SUCH SAVAGERY THAT HE WAS BRANDED AN INTERNATIONAL OUTLAW AND TEMPORARILY EXPELLED FROM THE AVENGERS.

INHERITING THE QUANTUM BANDS WORN FOR BILLIONS OF YEARS BY A SERIES OF COSMIC CHAMPIONS APPOINTED BY EON (INCLUDING THE MARVEL BOY OF THE 1930s), S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT **WENDELL VAUGHN**, KNOWN AS **QUASAR**, WAS THE NEXT TO SERVE AS PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE.

EARTH'S HEROES AND MUTANTS ASSEMBLED ON MULTIPLE FRONTS TO REPEL A DEMONIC INVASION OF EARTH, WITH THE HEROIC BUT CORRUPT **MAGIK** AND THE VILLAINOUS **JEAN GREY CLONE MADELYNE PRYOR**, THE **GOBLIN QUEEN**, AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE BATTLE.

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE MUTANT MASSACRE, **CAPTAIN BRITAIN**, **MEGGAN PUCEANU**, **NIGHTCRAWLER**, **SHADOWCAT** AND **RACHEL SUMMERS** FORMED **EXCALIBUR** TO HONOR THE LEGACY OF THE X-MEN.



JOHNNY BLAZE, MEANWHILE, DEALT WITH A DIFFERENT DEMON: HIS OWN. AFTER SEPARATING HIMSELF FROM ZARATHOS, BLAZE WAS FINALLY FREE FROM BEING THE GHOST RIDER—ONLY TO SEE HIS BROTHER, DANNY KETCH, BECOME THE NEXT SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE WHEN HE WAS BONDED WITH THE ESSENCE OF THEIR ANCESTOR NOBLE KALE, ANOTHER FORMER RIDER.

FOR A TIME, THE BROTHERS JOINED FORCES WITH DR. STRANGE, MORBIUS THE LIVING VAMPIRE AND OTHERS AS THE LOOSE-KNIT MIDNIGHT SONS.

TO COMPENSATE FOR HIS SLAIN FAMILY, YOUNG CRIMEFIGHTER NIGHT THRASHER CREATED HIS OWN TEENAGED TEAM CALLED THE NEW WARRIORS, BRINGING TOGETHER NOVA, FIRESTAR, NAMORITA, SPEEDBALL AND A NEW MARVEL BOY.




RAISED IN A GRIM FUTURE RULED BY APOCALYPSE, NATHAN SUMMERS--THE SON OF CYCLOPS AND MADELYNE PRYOR--TRAVELED BACK IN TIME TO PREVENT THE RISE OF APOCALYPSE'S REIGN.

UNDER THE NAME CABLE, SUMMERS TOOK COMMAND OF THE NEW MUTANTS AND TRANSFORMED THEM INTO A PARAMILITARY SQUAD CALLED X-FORCE.

LIKE WOLVERINE, AN UNIDENTIFIED MAN GOING BY THE NAME "WADE WILSON" WAS A REFUGEE FROM THE WEAPON X PROGRAM. AS DEADPOOL, A DISFIGURED MERCENARY WITH A SUPERHUMAN HEALING FACTOR AND PHYSICAL PROWESS, WILSON'S JOCKING DENEAOR OFTEN BELIED HIS DEADLY SKILLS.







HAVING BEEN GATHERED FROM ACROSS THE COSMOS, THE INFINITY GEMS PROVED THE GREATEST THREAT YET TO REALITY.

TO IMPRESS HIS BELOVED DEATH, THANOS EMBEDDED THEM INTO THE INFINITY GAUNTLET, GIVING HIM THE ABILITY TO ERADICATE HALF OF ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE WITH A SNAP OF HIS FINGERS.

ONLY ONCE THE GAUNTLET WAS STOLEN BY THE SPACE PIRATE NEBULA WAS THE UNIVERSE RESTORED. ITS GEMS WERE TAKEN INTO THE CUSTODY OF ADAM WARLOCK AND HIS HANDPICKED INFINITY WATCH FOR THEIR PROTECTION.



SOON AFTER, HOWEVER, WARLOCK'S EVIL COUNTERPART THE MAGUS FACED EARTH'S DEFENDERS IN AN ATTEMPT TO RESTORE THE GAUNTLET. HAD WARLOCK NOT SECRETLY REPLACED ONE OF THE STONES WITH A NON-POWERED REPLICA, THE RESULTANT CONFLICT WOULD HAVE DESTROYED THEM ALL.



DESPITE EVERY ATTEMPT TO KEEP THEM APART, THE GEMS WOULD CONTINUE TO ACCUMULATE FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE HANDS OF HEROES AND MADMEN ALIKE.




WITH EARTH IMPERILED, THE AVENGERS WERE DRAWN INTO A GALACTIC WAR BETWEEN THE KREE AND THE SHI'AR EMPIRES. DURING THE STRUGGLE, THE KREE'S SUPREME INTELLIGENCE--IN AN ATTEMPT TO FORCE EVOLUTION WITHIN HIS RACE-- BROUGHT ABOUT THE DETONATION OF THE MEGA-BOMB, WHICH DESTROYED 98 PERCENT OF THE EMPIRE'S FIVE HUNDRED BILLION CITIZENS.

WITH THE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE SUBSEQUENTLY BELIEVED EXECUTED, THE SHI'AR IMPERIUM ABSORBED THE REMAINING KREE TERRITORIES.

STRYFE--AN EMBITTERED CLONE OF CABLE--CAME FROM THE FUTURE TO FORM A TERRORIST GROUP CALLED THE MUTANT LIBERATION FRONT. NOT LONG AFTER, STRYFE AND APOCALYPSE DECLARED WAR UPON ONE ANOTHER, WITH EARTH'S MUTANTS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE.



ULTIMATELY DEFEATED, STRYFE NEVERTHELESS MANAGED TO UNLEASH HIS GREATEST WEAPON: THE MUTANT PLAGUE KNOWN AS THE LEGACY VIRUS.



AN OFFSPRING OF THE VENOM SYMBIOTE BONDING WITH A SOCIOPATHIC SERIAL KILLER NAMED CLETUS KASADY TO BECOME CARNAGE. KASADY SUBSEQUENTLY LED A BAND OF SIMILARLY MENTALLY UNBALANCED SUPERHUMANS ON A KILLING SPREE THROUGHOUT NEW YORK CITY.

AS THE DEATH TOLL MOUNTED, SPIDER-MAN AND HIS ALLIES WERE FORCED TO TEAM WITH VENOM IN ORDER TO DEFEAT AND INCARCERATE CARNAGE, THOUGH NOT WITHOUT SEVERELY TESTING SPIDER-MAN'S VOW TO NEVER TAKE A LIFE.



AFTER MANY YEARS OF COMPLEX AND UNSTEADY ROMANCE, SWEETHEARTS CYCLOPS AND JEAN GREY FINALLY WED.

DESPERATE TO ANNIHILATE HIS
ARCHENEMESIS ONCE AND FOR ALL,
NORMAN OSBORN SECRETLY
ORCHESTRATED THE RETURN
OF THE SPIDER-MAN CLONE
CREATED BY THE JACKAL.

HE MANIPULATED PETER PARKER,
THE JACKAL AND THE CLONE--
WHO TOOK THE NAME BEN REILLY,
ALIAS THE SCARLET SPIDER--
INTO BELIEVING PARKER WAS THE
CLONE AND REILLY THE ORIGINAL.



ONLY AFTER PARKER'S LIFE WAS TURNED
UPSIDE-DOWN AND REILLY CLAIMED THE
SPIDER-MAN NAME WERE OSBORN'S
LONG-TERM MACHINATIONS UNCOVERED.
PARKER AND REILLY CONFRONTED
OSBORN, BUT DURING THE BATTLE THE
TRUE CLONE WAS REVEALED WHEN REILLY
WAS KILLED AND CRUMBLED TO DUST.

NEWER MUTANTS WERE EMERGING--SOME DESTINED TO RAISE THEIR WORLD TO NEW HEIGHTS, OTHERS TO RUIN IT, OF THE FORMER, NONE WERE MORE NOTABLE THAN **GENERATION X**.

TO TRAIN THESE TEENAGE NEWCOMERS, THE IRISH MUTANT **BANSHEE** AND **EMMA FROST**, FORMER WHITE QUEEN OF THE **HELLFIRE CLUB**, ESTABLISHED A REMOTE BRANCH OF **CHARLES XAVIER'S** SCHOOL IN MASSACHUSETTS.

CONVERSELY, **DAVID HALLER**, XAVIER'S SON, SINGLE-HANDEDLY TRANSFORMED THE EARTH. TRAVELING BACK IN TIME, HE INTENDED TO SLAY XAVIER'S GREATEST ENEMY, **MAGNETO**, BUT INSTEAD ACCIDENTALLY KILLED HIS FATHER. THE RESULTANT CHANGE IN HISTORY CREATED A DARK REALITY IN WHICH **APOCALYPSE** RULED THE EARTH WITH MERCY TOWARD NONE.

A MUTANT RESISTANCE SQUAD USING A FRAGMENT OF THE **M'KRAAN CRYSTAL** WAS ABLE TO RESTORE THE PROPER TIMELINE ONLY BY SENDING THE MUTANT **BISHOP** INTO THE PAST TO UNDO HALLER'S ACTIONS.



XAVIER WAS ALSO AT THE CENTER OF ANOTHER CHALLENGE TO FACE EARTH. AN UNINTENDED PSYCHIC MERGING OF XAVIER'S LONG-REPPRESSED NEGATIVE FEELINGS WITH MAGNETO'S DARK EGO RESULTED IN THE CREATION OF THE ALL-POWERFUL **ONSLAUGHT**, A BEING OF PURE PSYCHIC ENERGY WHO WANTED TO BRING ABOUT THE END OF INDEPENDENT THOUGHT BY BONDING ALL HUMANITY INTO A SINGLE COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE.

AMONG THOSE WHO DEFEATED HIM WERE THE **AVENGERS** AND THE **FANTASTIC FOUR**, WHO SEEMED TO PERISH IN THE ENSUING BATTLE.

INSTEAD, THEY WERE CAST INTO A **POCKET UNIVERSE** ONTO A PARALLEL EARTH WHERE THEY WERE **REBORN** INTO NEW LIVES THAT WERE SIMILAR, BUT NOT IDENTICAL, TO THEIR PREVIOUS INCARNATIONS. A YEAR LATER, THEY WERE RETRIEVED AND RESTORED ONLY THROUGH THE INTERVENTION OF THE CREATOR OF THAT PARALLEL WORLD, A YOUNG CHILD.

FRANKLIN
RICHARDS.



To Be
Continued!

NEXT



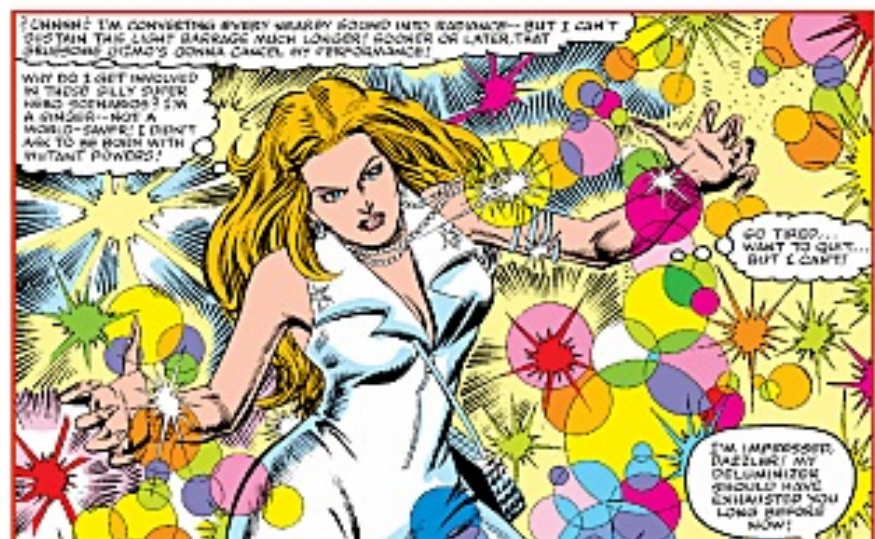


When it returned to Earth, Dark Phoenix was confronted by the X-Men and Charles Xavier, who telepathically empowered the portion of Jean Grey's consciousness and humanity within Dark Phoenix, which enabled it to reject its own cosmic power. Despite this, the Shi'ar Empire ruled Phoenix a cosmic threat and came to Earth to execute it. The X-Men invoked a Shi'ar custom of trial by combat to fight the ruling, but during the battle, the Dark Phoenix manifested. Grey's personality within Phoenix asserted itself again and, realizing it could never control its power or appetite, used a nearby weapon to commit cosmic suicide. Unaware the Phoenix was not the true Jean Grey, the X-Men—particularly Cyclops—were greatly devastated by the loss. The saga of Dark Phoenix took place in *X-Men #129-137* (1980).



An average high schooler named Richard Rider was selected by a dying alien—a member of the cosmic peacekeeping Nova Corps—to receive his powers and become his replacement. Calling himself **Nova**, Rider quickly became a fixture in New York City super heroics by using his superhuman strength and superfast flight to fight crime wherever he could. Nova's first appearance and origin can be found in *Nova #1* (1976).

Materialistic mercenary Marc Spector had a change of heart after watching fellow merc Raoul Bushman needlessly slaughter a town. Spector attacked Bushman but was defeated and left for dead in a Sudanese desert. Dragging himself to a recently unearthed tomb, Spector apparently died at the foot of a statue of the moon god Khonshu but then arose, alive and believing he had been resurrected by Khonshu to serve as the moon's knight on Earth. Using his personal wealth, Spector created multiple identities to wage war on crime—millionaire Steven Grant, cab driver Jake Lockley and Moon Knight, a caped, hooded agent of vengeance. Maintaining the multiple identities damaged Spector's sanity and he began struggling with a dissociative identity disorder, which he continues to wrestle with in current times. Moon Knight first appeared in *Werewolf by Night #32-33* (1975) and his origin was uncovered in *Moon Knight #1* (1980).



Gifted with a beautiful singing voice, Alison Blaire's mutant gift to create dazzling light shows manifested in junior high. After giving in to her demanding father's intense pressure to pursue a law degree all the way through college, Blaire finally rejected his control and decided to pursue a full-time music career as **Dazzler**; her corresponding light shows were explained away as being technologically based. In an early performance, Dazzler was attacked by members of the mutant-hunting Hellfire Club but protected by the X-Men who were also in attendance. Despite assisting the X-Men against the club, Dazzler refused to become a super hero, preferring to pursue stardom in music, a goal she accomplished to some success. However, this goal never fully came to fruition due to unintentional and often unwanted interactions with superhumans around the globe. Dazzler first appeared in *X-Men #130* (1980) and her origin was revealed in *Dazzler #1* (1981).

Foreseeing approaching threats to reality itself, Omniversal guardian Merlyn and his daughter Roma appeared to physicist Brian Braddock, fatally wounded while fleeing the murderous Reaver, and offered him a choice between the Sword of Might and Amulet of Right. Choosing the latter, Braddock became **Captain Britain**, and has fought to protect Great Britain and the world from anything that could do them harm. The Captain's origins were told in *Captain Britain #1-2* (1976) and *Marvel Team-Up #65* (1978).



Jessica Drew, 7, became deathly ill in 1931 due to unintentional exposure to uranium used in her father's research. She was saved by a serum derived from spiders and by being placed in a genetic accelerator where she hibernated until modern times. Emerging as a teen, Drew learned she had gained spider-like superhuman powers due to the radiation and the serum. She soon fell in with the subversive group Hydra, but after learning the truth of their terrorist ways, she turned on them and eventually joined the peacekeeping agency S.H.I.E.L.D. and began a career of fighting crime as **Spider-Woman**. A chronological retelling of Spider-Woman's origins begins in the High Evolutionary backup stories in *Punisher Annual* #1 (1988), *Silver Surfer Annual* #1 (1988), *New Mutants Annual* #4 (1988) and *Web of Spider-Man Annual* #4 (1988). Her origin story then continues in *Spider-Woman* #1 (1978) and *Marvel Spotlight* #32 (1977).



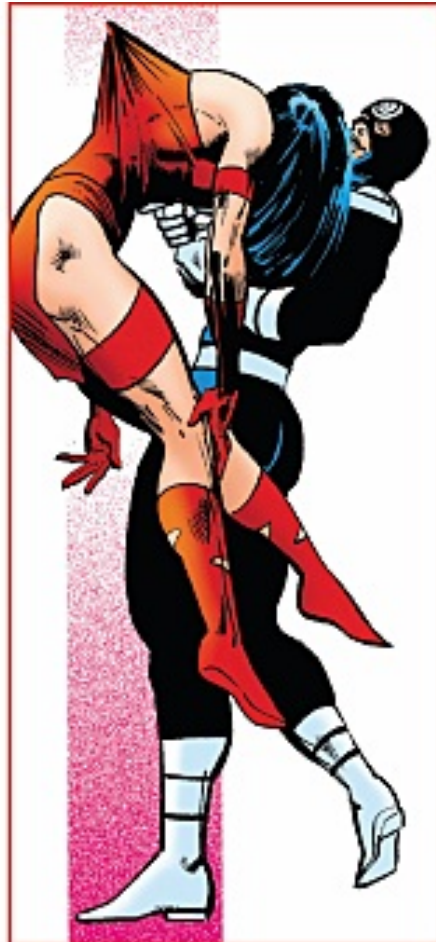
Fighter pilot and former spy Carol Danvers was serving as head of security at NASA's Kennedy Space Center when she first met extraterrestrial Kree hero Mar-Vell, who protected the innocent on Earth as Captain Marvel; the two became very close. When a battle between Mar-Vell and his archenemy Yon-Rogg resulted in an explosion of a Kree device called the Psyche-Magnitron—a device capable of turning imagination into reality—it was believed that Danvers' DNA was altered by the explosion, turning her into the superhuman **Ms. Marvel**. Many years later, Danvers learned her mother was Kree and that her DNA had been Kree all along. Danvers continues her high-flying war on crime to this day. Carol Danvers first appeared in *Marvel Super-Heroes* #13 (1967). She was exposed to the Psyche-Magnitron in *Captain Marvel* #18 (1969) and became Ms. Marvel in *Ms. Marvel* #1 (1977). Her Kree heritage was revealed in *Life of Captain Marvel* #1-5 (2018-2019).



After stealing vast cosmic power from the planet-eater Galactus, the mad man-god **Korvac** left the 31st century to enact a plan of remaking the universe into a peaceful utopia under his supreme domination. The superhuman Guardians of the Galaxy followed him to the 20th century to stop him. Working together, the Guardians and the Avengers searched for Korvac tirelessly, ultimately giving their lives in a brutal battle against their immensely powerful foe. However, the violent confrontation shocked Korvac's love, Carina. Seeing Carina's horrified reaction, Korvac lost the will to fight, resurrected his slain foes and seemingly killed himself. The Avengers' battle against Korvac took place in *Avengers* #167-168 (1978) and *Avengers* #170-177 (1978), his theft of Galactus' power was recounted in #175. A ten-page epilogue was added to the tale in the collected edition titled *Avengers: The Korvac Saga* (1991).



Thor #300 (1980) tells of when the Celestial Fourth Host returned to Earth to finally judge if humanity was worthy of continued existence. Many of Earth's pantheons had long prepared for war against the Celestials, but Earth goddess Gaea revealed a peaceful solution she and other goddesses had been working on for a millennium: they had scoured Earth looking for humans who represented the highest pinnacle of humanity, ensured their superhuman potential was awakened, and placed them in suspended animation until the time the Fourth Host arrived. When the gods' attacks on the Host failed upon their arrival, Gaea presented these twelve examples of humanity to Celestial leader Arishem the Judge. Pleased the seeds of their initial experiments had born superhuman specimens, Arishem found favor with humanity, and the Fourth Host departed Earth, letting it survive. The twelve specimens, collectively called the Young Gods, departed with the Celestials.



Elektra Natchios first met Matt Murdock in college, the two sharing an intense, passionate love affair. When her father was murdered, Elektra began a journey down a dark path, using her lifetime training in martial arts to become an assassin of the highest caliber, eventually joining the ranks of ninja cult the Hand. Her path ultimately brought her back to America, where she came into conflict with Matt Murdock, who was now the street-level super hero Daredevil, and began working for the Kingpin of Crime. When she was killed in battle with Bullseye, another mercenary who wanted to be the Kingpin's chief assassin, Daredevil was devastated. However, when the Hand sought to resurrect Elektra using ancient mystical methods they used to maintain their ranks, Daredevil interrupted the ceremony and interjected his spirit into the process. Elektra was resurrected, the evil taint of the Hand removed from her spirit as a result of Daredevil's involvement. Elektra first appears in *Daredevil* #168 (1981) and is killed in *Daredevil* #181 (1982). Her resurrection takes place in *Daredevil* #190 (1983).



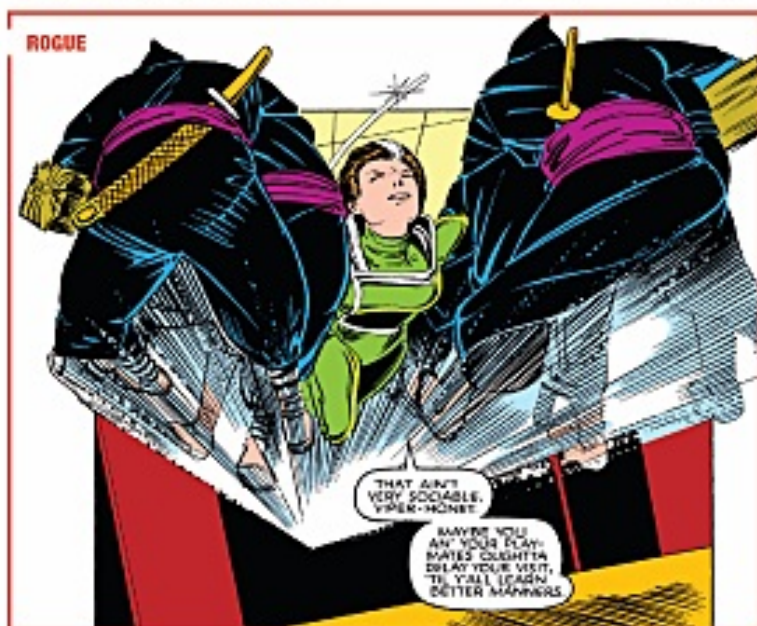
New Orleans harbor patrol officer Monica Rambeau agreed to help a family friend who had created an otherdimensional energy-tapping device that was going to be weaponized by a South American dictator. To prevent this, Rambeau smashed her fists into the device, causing an explosion that mutated her. Now able to turn her body into any energy on the electromagnetic spectrum, Rambeau quit the harbor patrol to pursue protecting the innocent as the fast-as-light Captain Marvel. While attempting to get help from the Fantastic Four's Mister Fantastic in controlling her abilities, Captain Marvel came into contact with the Avengers, who took her on as a probationary member in training. Before long, Rambeau became a full member in good standing. Monica Rambeau's first appearance and origin are told in *Amazing Spider-Man Annual* #16 (1982) with a follow-up in *Avengers* #227 (1982).

Succumbing to alcoholism, Tony Stark went into battle as Iron Man while intoxicated and suffered a humiliating defeat from a minor villain. After going to his close friend Jim Rhodes for help recharging his armor, Stark revealed his identity to Rhodes before passing out. Rhodes donned the armor and completed the battle against the villain then continued serving as Iron Man for an extended period while Stark actively pursued a hedonistic lifestyle. Jim Rhodes becomes Iron Man in *Iron Man* #169 (1983) until Stark's eventual recovery allows him to take back the role in *Iron Man* #200 (1985).





Beta Ray Bill was the member of the Korbinites race selected to serve as their champion, undergoing biogenetic cybernetic enhancements that made him phenomenally powerful. While a fleet carrying his race was on the run from demons that had destroyed the Korbinites' galaxy, Bill scouted ahead. When Bill was detected by Earth peacekeeping agency S.H.I.E.L.D., Thor was sent to discern if there was a threat to Earth, coming to blows with Bill. During the battle, Bill picked up Thor's hammer, Mjolnir, proving himself worthy of the power of Thor. Ultimately, Asgardian All-Father Odin had another enchanted hammer created for Bill. Thor and Bill became allies in fighting the demons that were pursuing the Korbinites then worked together to battle other foes, eventually coming to regard each other as brothers; Bill and Asgardian warrior Sif also became very close. Beta Ray Bill's first appearance is recorded in *Thor* #337-340 (1983).



Seeking to understand the concept of desire, the Beyonder, an immature cosmic being, abducted costumed heroes and villains from Earth and pitted them against one another on a planet he created. Promised all they desired should they slay their foes, these gathered heroes and villains battled one another violently, suffering losses on both sides until Doctor Doom managed to steal the Beyonder's powers and slay the heroes. However, Doom—his subconscious manipulated by the Beyonder—unintentionally enabled the heroes' resurrection and brought about his defeat. At the war's end, the traumatized heroes and villains returned to an Earth that remained unaware of their secret war. Among the combatants was Rogue, a former member of the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, who had previously used her mutant ability to absorb the powers and psyche of others through contact to fight against the Avengers and X-Men. After reforming, Rogue fought alongside the X-Men, quickly proving herself a valuable ally both during the war and in the years after. The *Secret Wars* unfolded in *Marvel Super Heroes Secret Wars* #1-12 (1984). Rogue first appeared in *Avengers Annual* #10 (1981) and joined the X-Men in *Uncanny X-Men* #171 (1983).



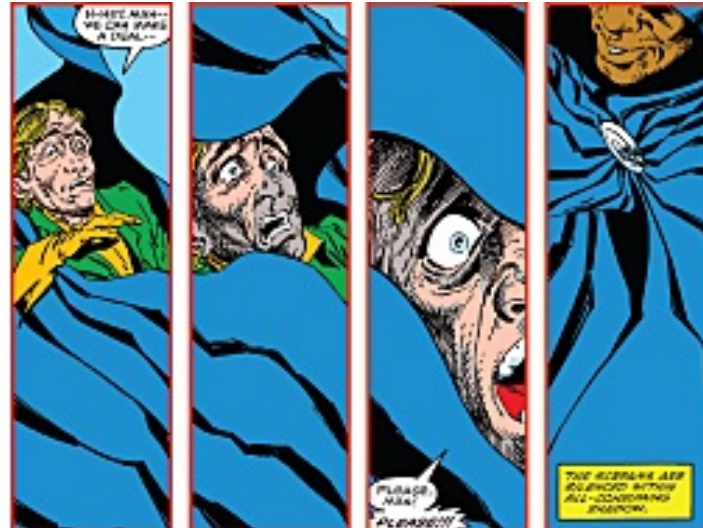
During the secret war, Spider-Man sought to repair his damaged costume but instead found a machine that gave him a stylized black costume that responded to his mental commands. Sometime after returning to Earth, Spider-Man learned the costume was actually a symbiotic alien that sought to permanently bond with him. The alien was forcibly removed with the help of the Fantastic Four. After the jilted alien escaped, it located Eddie Brock, a former reporter who shared the alien's hatred of Spider-Man, and bonded with him, becoming the violent, bloodthirsty **Venom**, one of Spider-Man's most dangerous enemies. Spider-Man obtained the black costume in *Marvel Super Heroes Secret Wars #8* (1984), but it first appeared in *Amazing Spider-Man #252* (1984). Spider-Man learned the true nature of this costume in *Amazing Spider-Man #258* (1984). Venom's first storyline can be found in *Amazing Spider-Man #298-300* (1988).



When scientist James Power developed a matter/antimatter conversion process as an energy source, he drew the attention of two extraterrestrial species. The "Snarks" coveted its destructive potential, while Kymellian Aelfyre Whitmane, whose race had unintentionally destroyed their own homeworld using the same process, sought to warn him. The Snarks abducted James and his wife and fatally injured "Whitey," who bequeathed his powers to James' four young children—Alex, Julie, Jack and Katie—so they could rescue their parents, stop the Snarks, and prevent their father's invention from accidentally destroying Earth. With their new powers, the kids became **Power Pack** and had numerous adventures among Earth's superhumans. Their origin can be found in *Power Pack #1-5* (1984).



The briefly malfunctioning synthezoid Vision assembled a second branch of the Avengers in California. Though initially established as a plot to benevolently take over Earth, it became a long-standing force for good. This team, led by Hawkeye, initially comprised ex-Avengers Tigra and Wonder Man and new recruits Mockingbird, Hawkeye's wife, and James Rhodes as Iron Man. Tony Stark would soon reclaim the Iron Man role and take a position within these **West Coast Avengers**. The first mention of the West Coast branch concept was in *Avengers #243* (1984), and the team's first appearance was in *West Coast Avengers #1-4* (1984). Depicted on page nine is a later roster with Tony Stark as Iron Man; shown here is a gathering of the initial team.



Runaways Tyrone Johnson and Tandy Bowen were used as guinea pigs in experiments performed by mob chemist Simon Marshall, who was testing synthetic narcotics his employers hoped would be a cheaper alternative to heroin. The only two runaways to survive the experiments, Johnson and Bowen, were mutated by the drugs, Johnson becoming a living portal to the eternal night of the Darkforce dimension and Bowen becoming a generator of pure light. As **Cloak & Dagger**, the duo began a war on drugs and crime that continues to this day. The duo first appeared in *Spectacular Spider-Man* #64 (1982) and their full origin was told in *Cloak & Dagger* #4 (1984).



When the Avengers discovered a strange cocoon beneath the waters of New York's Jamaica Bay, they recruited the Fantastic Four's Reed Richards to uncover its secrets. Eventually the gathered heroes freed the true **Jean Grey** from within and learned the Phoenix Force placed her there to heal from extreme radiation exposure while it impersonated her as the X-Men's Phoenix. The discovery occurred in *Avengers* #263 (1986), while Jean Grey was freed in *Fantastic Four* #286 (1986). The tale of her survival is expanded in *Classic X-Men* #8 (1986).

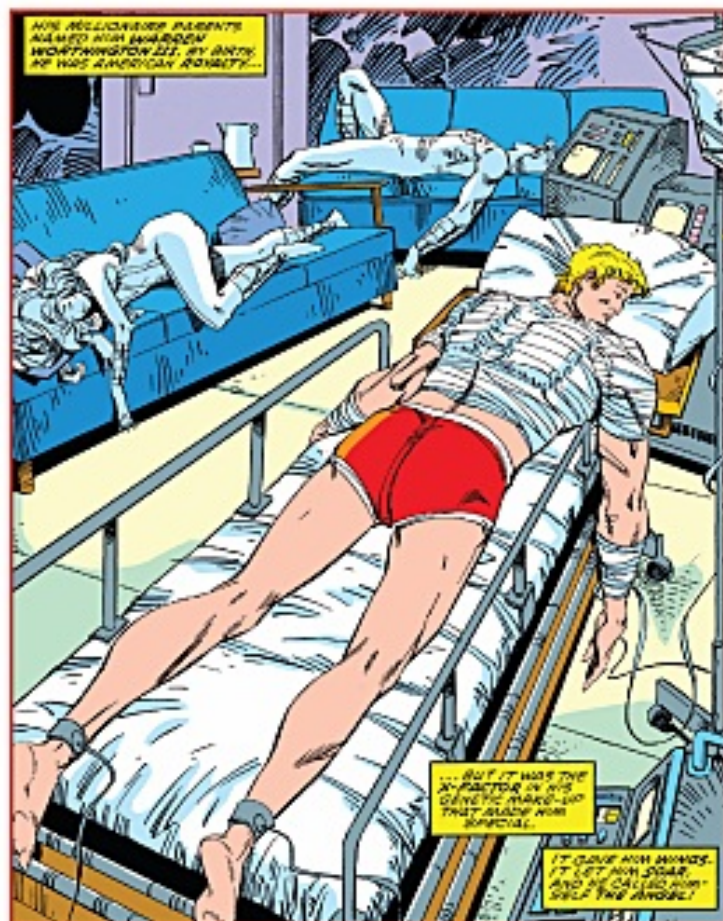
Jean Grey's disorientation after emerging from stasis did not last long, though. With the help of the Avengers and Fantastic Four, she reached out to her closest friends, the original X-Men (Angel, Iceman, Beast and Cyclops), who were shocked and ecstatic to learn their beloved friend was alive. Angel's friend, public relations expert Cameron Hodge, helped them form X-Factor—a group that publicly appeared to hunt mutant menaces for money while secretly protecting young mutants and mentoring them in controlling their powers. Despite its good intentions, this plan stoked the fires of society's hatred and mistrust of mutantkind, accomplishing the goal of the secretly rabid anti-mutant Hodge. Through all of this, a wedge between former lovers Grey and Cyclops grew, especially when Grey learned Cyclops had married Madelyne Pryor while Grey was believed dead. All parties remained unaware Pryor was actually a clone of Grey. Mad geneticist Mister Sinister created Pryor as a plot to obtain the genetic result of procreation between Cyclops and Jean Grey's DNA. The reunion of the original X-Men and the formation of X-Factor occurred in *X-Factor* #1 (1986).





Convinced the Morlocks—a community of mutants living within abandoned tunnels beneath Manhattan—were the results of a bastardization of his own genetic research, Mister Sinister set out to eliminate them. Sinister sent master thief Gambit (Remy LeBeau) to gather a group of cutthroat mutant mercenaries together to accomplish this task but did not reveal their mission to Gambit. Indebted to Sinister for helping him control his own mutant power, Gambit agreed

to collect the Marauders, until they began slaughtering the Morlocks. The Marauder Sabretooth nearly killed Gambit when he tried to stop them. This mutant massacre drew the attention of a number of heroes, including the X-Men, X-Factor and Thor, but despite their assistance, the Morlocks were slaughtered in countless numbers. X-Men Nightcrawler, Colossus and Shadowcat (Kitty Pryde) and Angel of X-Factor were all gravely wounded; Cameron Hodge manipulated hospital staff to needlessly amputate Angel's wings. Gambit would later go on to join the X-Men; his complicity in the mutant massacre wasn't revealed until much later, causing a rift between him and the team. The Mutant Massacre unfolded in *Thor* #373-374 (1986), *Uncanny X-Men* #210-213 (1986) and *X-Factor* #9-11 (1986). Gambit's involvement in the gathering of the Marauders was revealed in *Uncanny X-Men* #350 (1997); his first appearances were in *Uncanny X-Men* #266 (1990) and *Uncanny X-Men Annual* #14 (1990).



... BUT IT WAS THE X-FACTOR IN HIS GENETIC MAKE-UP THAT MADE HIM SPECIAL.

IT CAME WITH HIM.
IT LEFT WITH HIM.
AND HE CALLED HIM
SELF THE ANOOL!





Blaming Captain America for the death of his father—World War II Nazi scientist Heinrich Zemo—Helmut Zemo gathered a superhuman army as the latest incarnation of the Masters of Evil and plotted to destroy everything Captain America cared for. Through guile and brute force, the Masters separated and defeated the Avengers and laid siege to **Avengers Mansion**, destroying much of it; among the items destroyed were Captain America's few keepsakes from his childhood in the 1920s and '30s. Despite facing their greatest defeat to date, the Avengers eventually rallied behind team chairperson the Wasp, overpowered the Masters and took back the Mansion. Loyal team butler Edwin Jarvis was tortured and horribly beaten by the villains, requiring a leave of absence before returning to duty. The siege of Avengers Mansion was recorded in *Avengers* #270-271 and #273-277 (1986-1987), while an epilogue focused on Edwin Jarvis can be found in *Avengers* #280 (1987).



When Tony Stark learned his closely guarded technological designs had been pilfered and distributed among various armor-wearing beings, he compiled a list of possible users (a list that initially included Doctor Doom, who was soon ruled out) and set out to reclaim his work. Desperate to prevent his life's work from harming others, Stark as Iron Man utilized brutal tactics to destroy any technology based on his designs, whether used by friend or foe. His actions brought him into conflict with Steve Rogers, leading to a long rift between the friends. After accomplishing his goals, Stark staged the death of Iron Man, leading the world to believe the brutality against other armored beings was the result of his errant bodyguard, a man now dead. Stark maintained this fiction for a time but ultimately revealed his identity to his Avengers teammates once more. Tony Stark's **Armor Wars** took place in *Iron Man* #225-231 (1987-1988).

Mild-mannered Wendell Vaughn did not possess the killer instinct required to be a top-level field operative for S.H.I.E.L.D. and was relegated to menial desk jobs or security positions. One assignment saw him guarding a pair of ancient extraterrestrial bracelets (the Quantum Bands). Among the scientists investigating the ornaments was Vaughn's distant and cold father, Gilbert. When subversive organization A.I.M. (Advanced Idea Mechanics) attempted to steal the bracelets, Vaughn was forced to put them on to fight off the theft. Vaughn learned that he had been selected by ancient cosmic being Eon to become the **Protector of the Universe**,

the latest in a centuries-long line of courageous and intelligent beings granted vast power through the Quantum Bands. With assistance from his father, Vaughn gradually settled into the role and, as Quasar, became strong enough to defeat numerous cosmic threats and join the Avengers as a member in good standing. Quasar's origin unfolded in *Quasar* #1-2 (1989); his confrontation with the cosmic threat he was groomed to defeat took place in *Quasar* #18-27 (1991); Vaughn first appeared as Marvel Man in *Captain America* #217 (1978).





While recovering in Europe from the severe wounds suffered during the Mutant Massacre, Kitty Pryde and Nightcrawler were devastated to learn the X-Men were killed battling a powerful adversary. Though traumatized by not being with their comrades, the two heroes joined forces with friends and fellow heroes Captain Britain, Meggan and Phoenix (an alternate-reality daughter of Cyclops and Jean Grey) to continue the peacekeeping mission of the X-Men as Excalibur. Sometime later, the world would learn the X-Men had been secretly resurrected by cosmic beings and remained underground to prevent harm coming to those they loved. Excalibur would remain together for an extended period of time, working in tandem with the X-Men to protect the innocent. **Excalibur was forged in *Excalibur Special Edition #1* (1987).**

A demonic invasion of Manhattan was born from two tragedies suffered by women close to the X-Men. The first: Child sister of X-Man Colossus, Illyana Rasputin, was kidnapped by the demonic sorcerer Belasco and grew to her teens in his horrific limbo. Emerging from a mystical portal as a teenager seconds after being taken, Illyana struggled to control the dark magic she had gained as Belasco's apprentice as well as the dark impulses she now had. The second was Madelyne Pryor, the secret clone of Jean Grey created by mad geneticist Mister Sinister. When Jean Grey was believed killed, Sinister manipulated events to put Pryor in contact with Scott Summers (Cyclops) to have them produce a child Sinister suspected would be vastly powerful. When Cyclops learned Jean Grey was alive, he abandoned his now-wife Pryor and newborn son, enraging Pryor. Demons subtly (and oftentimes not so subtly) manipulated Illyana and Pryor to use their vast powers to help limbo manifest in Manhattan, leading to a 24-hour period of intense demonic activity and hell on Earth. Through the efforts of the X-Men, X-Factor, the New Mutants and others, Pryor's plan to sacrifice her son was prevented and Illyana's corruption and transformation into the demonic Darkchild was stopped. The final battles with the women resulted in Pryor's unintentional death while trying to kill her enemies and the demonic Rasputin replaced by a child version of herself the same age she was when kidnapped by Belasco. The main storyline for *Inferno* took place in *New Mutants* #71-73 (1988), *Uncanny X-Men* #240-243 (1988), *X-Factor* #36-39 (1988) and *X-Terminators* #1-4 (1988).





A struggle for dominance between Johnny Blaze and Zarathos in *Ghost Rider #80-81* (1983) ultimately resulted in Zarathos being imprisoned within the Crystal of Souls, freeing Blaze from the curse of being the Ghost Rider. He was finally able to marry and start a family.



Years after being freed from the curse of being Ghost Rider, Johnny Blaze learned that another Ghost Rider had become active in and around New York City. Fearing Zarathos had escaped, Blaze pursued him, and he ultimately learned that a young man named **Danny Ketch** had become the latest Ghost Rider. Though initially hostile toward each other, the two became allies once Blaze realized the entity within Ketch was not Zarathos. Blaze served as Ketch's protector from that point on. Sometime later, the two would learn they were brothers and that Ketch was bonded with the spirit of Noble Kale, the first in their family history cursed to be a flaming, skeletal spirit of vengeance. Danny Ketch first appeared in *Ghost Rider #1* (1990). *Ghost Rider/Blaze: Spirits of Vengeance #16* (1993) revealed Ketch and Blaze were brothers. *Ghost Rider #77* (1996) revealed that Danny Ketch was bonded with Noble Kale.



In ancient times, a group of powerful beings joined together as the Order of the Midnight Sons to oppose the demon Zarathos and were successful in doing so. In modern times, Sorcerer Supreme Doctor Strange similarly gathered super-powered beings together to stand against the demonic Lilith and her children, the Lilin. These modern **Midnight Sons** included both Johnny Blaze and Danny Ketch, pseudo-vampire Morbius, the mystic-hunting Blade, Frank Drake, Hannibal King and a trio of Darkhold Redeemers, a group dedicated to destroying the evil Darkhold book of spells. The Midnight Sons repeatedly faced Lilith, her progeny and other mystical threats before going their separate ways. Other incarnations of the group have been known to gather as needed. The ancient Order of the Midnight Sons was first depicted in *Ghost Rider/Blaze: Spirits of Vengeance #14* (1993), while the modern incarnation of the Midnight Sons gathered in *Ghost Rider #31* (1992).



After his parents were murdered when he was a child, Dwayne Taylor used their vast wealth to train himself to human perfection and create a suit of armor he used to fight crime as the vigilante Night Thrasher. With the Fantastic Four as his inspiration, Taylor sought to create a super-powered surrogate family and sought out fellow teen heroes Firestar, a microwave and flame manipulator, the telekinetic Marvel Boy and the flying powerhouse Nova. A subsequent battle against a powerful extraterrestrial brought this group into contact with two more teen superhumans, the hyperkinetic-powered Speedball and Atlantean hybrid Namorita. Following the battle, the six decided to remain together as a group, adopting a name they had been called by the media—and the New Warriors were born. *New Warriors* #1 (1990) and *Thor* #411-412 (1989).



When Cyclops' toddler son, Nathan Summers, became infected with a Techno-Organic virus, he had no choice but to entrust his child to a woman who promised to save his life in her native time, the 38th century. Later, through psychic time travel, Cyclops' consciousness was taken to that future to help raise his son to his teens. In his growth to adulthood, Nathan became a hardened soldier and militant strategist during countless battles against would-be conqueror Apocalypse. Mastering time travel, Nathan—now calling himself Cable as a metaphor for his being a link between times—eventually returned to his native era and took over leadership of the New Mutants, helping train them to become the paramilitary X-Force. His brutal tactics often clashed with the more peaceful approach of the X-Men, but Cable became a trusted ally of pro-mutant causes, even more so when Cyclops learned Cable was Nathan. Cable first appeared as an infant in *Uncanny X-Men* #201 (1986) and then as Cable in *New Mutants* #86 (1990); Cyclops' son was sent to the future to save his life in *X-Factor* #68 (1991). Cyclops helped raise Nathan in *The Adventures of Cyclops and Phoenix* #1-4 (1994) and learned Nathan had become Cable in *Cable* #6-8 (1993-1994). The New Mutants became X-Force in *New Mutants* #99-100 (1991). Their first recorded mission took place in *New Mutants Annual* #7 (1991), *New Warriors Annual* #1 (1991), *Uncanny X-Men Annual* #15 (1991) and *X-Factor Annual* #6 (1991).



Due to the erratic sanity of the man known as Deadpool, little can be confirmed about his past with absolute certainty, including if "Wade Wilson" is his true name. What is known is that the man who would become Deadpool became a mercenary by age 19 and at some point was diagnosed with cancer. When he volunteered to be a test subject for the Weapon X program, his cancer was cured via a healing factor derived from Wolverine (Logan/James Howlett), but the process reversed his condition by constantly producing new cells and mass, leaving him permanently disfigured. Though insane and believing he is a fictional character, Deadpool is an extremely deadly warrior who maintains a core morality that prevents him from harming children or the innocent, but his loyalties can change with the fluid nature of his mind or depending on who is paying him. Deadpool first appeared in *New Mutants* #98 (1991); what we know of his origins were recounted in *Deadpool: The Circle Chase* #3 (1993), *Deadpool* #-1 (1997), *Deadpool/Death Annual* (1998), *Deadpool* #36 (2000), and *X-Men Origins: Deadpool* #1 (2010).



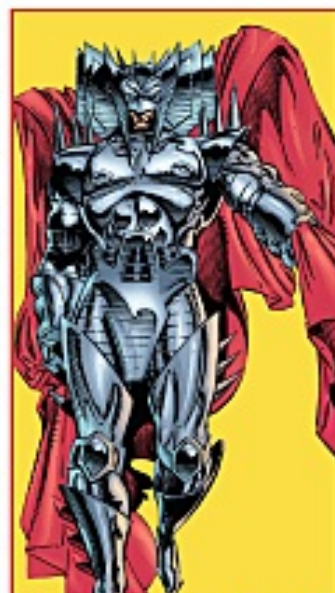
Completing a violent quest to collect all six Infinity Gems—stones capable of commanding incalculable power individually—the mad Titan Thanos combined the six gems together to gain omnipotent power. As a tribute to his greatest love, the embodiment of Death, Thanos eliminated half the universe's population by snapping his fingers, overcoming what Death perceived as overpopulation of vast proportions. With his newfound godhood, Thanos easily resisted assaults by the universe's greatest heroes and the highest powers of reality. When he abandoned his physical form to ascend to a higher plane of existence, his enemy Nebula seized the gauntlet housing the gems. After forcing her to drop the gauntlet, the genetically engineered Adam Warlock took possession of the gems. Later under decree from the Living Tribunal—the acting judge of the Multiverse—Warlock separated the gems and entrusted them to guardians he personally chose. Thanos' murderous plans took place in place in *Thanos Quest* #1-2 (1990) and *Infinity Gauntlet* #1-6 (1991), while Warlock's dividing of the gems was told in *Warlock and the Infinity Watch* #1-2 (1992).



A conflict between the Kree and Shi'ar Empire necessitated the involvement of Earth's superhuman forces when both sides of the war began using stargates in the Milky Way, which threatened Earth's safety. Hoping to end the conflict, the Avengers split into three factions: one to protect Earth, one to journey to Kree territory and one to go to Shi'ar space. Despite their best intentions, the Avengers were unable to stop the detonation of a Nega-bomb device, an explosion that slaughtered 98 percent of the 500 billion Kree. When the Avengers learned Kree leader the Supreme Intelligence had engineered the war and manipulated the death of his own race to jump-start their evolution, a number of Avengers went rogue and executed the Supreme Intelligence, causing a rift within the team that always had taken the stance that Avengers do not kill. In reality, the Supreme Intelligence escaped his execution by beaming his consciousness into a waiting starship. The sprawling *Operation: Galactic Storm* epic took place in *Avengers* #345-347 (1992), *Avengers West Coast* #80-82 (1992), *Captain America* #398-401 (1992), *Iron Man* #278-279 (1992), *Quasar* #32-34 (1992), *Thor* #445-446 (1992) and *Wonder Man* #7-9 (1992).



LEGACY VIRUS CLAIMS FIRST VICTIM



STRYFE

The being known as Stryfe was created in the 38th century by those entrusted with the care of Cyclops' toddler son, Nathan Summers, as a fail-safe in case they could not cure the child of the Techno-Organic virus ravaging his body. When immortal mutant conqueror Apocalypse tried to kidnap Summers to claim his body for his own, he kidnapped Stryfe by mistake. Apocalypse raised Stryfe without empathy, turning him into a violent conqueror and warrior. Journeying to the 20th century, Stryfe enacted a complicated plan of revenge against Apocalypse and Cable (a grown Nathan Summers). The plan included Stryfe nearly killing Charles Xavier and recruiting mad geneticist Mister Sinister to his side by promising him a vial of Stryfe's DNA, something Sinister had been trying to obtain for years. However, when Sinister opened the vial, he unintentionally released Stryfe's greatest weapon, a lethal virus that targeted mutants. The first recorded victim of this Legacy virus was young Illyana Rasputin, the sister of the X-Man Colossus; she faced a slow, lingering, painful death that devastated the X-Men. The virus would plague mutantkind for years to come. Much of what we know of Stryfe's origin comes from *The Adventures of Cyclops and Phoenix* #1-4 (1994) and *Cable* #6-8 (1993-1994). His intricate plot (the X-Cutioner's Song) unfolded in *Uncanny X-Men* #294-297 (1992-1993), *X-Factor* #84-86 (1992-1993), *X-Force* #16-18 (1992-1993) and *X-Men* #14-16 (1992-1993). The Legacy virus took its first victim in *Uncanny X-Men* #303 (1993).



Psychopathic serial killer Cletus Kasady was cellmates with Venom host Eddie Brock when Brock's symbiote broke him out of prison. The symbiote left behind its offspring, which possessed Kasady in *Amazing Spider-Man* #345 (1991), creating the murderous Carnage, who first appeared in *Amazing Spider-Man* #361 (1992). In a later escape from the Ravencroft Institute, Carnage gathered a number of fellow mentally ill superhumans and went on a killing spree across New York City. Spider-Man and a number of other heroes were forced to team with Venom to confront Carnage's "family." After an extended series of battles, Venom and Spider-Man were finally able to defeat Carnage. The Maximum Carnage storyline took place in *Amazing Spider-Man* #378-380 (1993), *Spectacular Spider-Man* #201-203 (1993), *Spider-Man* #35-37 (1993), *Spider-Man Unlimited* #1-2 (1993) and *Web of Spider-Man* #101-103 (1993).

Jean Grey and Scott Summers first met in *X-Men* #1 (1963) and eventually revealed their secret feelings for each other and fell in love. After years of both happiness and trials that strained their relationship, the two were finally able to tie the knot in a lavish ceremony while surrounded by friends, family and X-Men teammates. The wedding of Scott Summers and Jean Grey occurred in *X-Men* #30 (1993).



Spider-Man fell victim to the most complicated plot ever hatched against him when the believed-dead Norman Osborn orchestrated a yearslong series of manipulations and secret attacks against his greatest enemy, all centered around the clone created by Professor Miles Warren in *Amazing Spider-Man* #149-151 (1975). Through careful planning, Osborn threw the lives of Peter Parker and his clone (who had secretly survived and was now calling himself Ben Reilly) into mass confusion, casting doubt on who was the genuine article and who was the clone. After considerable time of chaos in the lives of anyone attached to Peter Parker, Osborn revealed his survival and attacked both Spider-Men, a battle that ultimately killed Ben Reilly and revealed he was the clone. While relieved to know the truth, Parker mourned the loss of one he had come to consider a brother, and he was filled with dread over the continued existence of the greatest enemy he had ever known. The Clone Saga officially began in *Web of Spider-Man* #117 (1994) and ended in *Peter Parker: Spider-Man* #75 (1996). Norman Osborn's convoluted master plan was fully summarized in *Spider-Man: The Osborn Journals* #1 (1997).

When the database carefully collected by Charles Xavier was stolen by a dangerous alien race, X-Men Banshee and Jubilee teamed with former enemies the White Queen (Emma Frost) and Sabretooth (Victor Creed) to reach the mutant youth who were detailed in the information before the aliens could procure and weaponize them. Once the alien threat was over, Banshee and the White Queen became co-headmasters of a school that would train these kids with the safe use of their powers as well as educate their minds. This training class, collectively known as **Generation X**, included power mimic Synch, Jubilee, multipowered M, shape-shifter Husk, the epidermis-manipulating Skin and explosive psionic Chamber. This class would remain together for years before the school was ultimately shut down. The youths first gathered together in *Uncanny X-Men* #316-317 (1994) and *X-Men* #36-37 (1994) and became a class in *Generation X* #1 (1994).



David Haller's 10-year-old mutant mind was shattered during a terrorist attack that left him with dissociative identity disorder and a super-powered mutant ability for each of the countless personas within him. David Haller became Legion and eventually believed he could heal the rift between mutants and humans by traveling to the past and eliminating mutant supremacist Magneto (Max Eisenhardt) before his ideological war with Haller's father, Charles Xavier, could become reality. However, Haller accidentally killed Xavier, erasing Haller's own birth and causing a massive rupture in reality. The Legion Quest took place in *Cable* #20 (1995), *Uncanny X-Men* #320-321 (1995), *X-Factor* #109 (1994) and *X-Men* #40-41 (1995).



AGE OF APOCALYPSE

Haller's actions left a timeline where Xavier never existed to prevent the rise of mutant conqueror Apocalypse from taking control of the world and ruling through his maxim of ascendancy of the fittest. Apocalypse's twenty-year domination resulted in a dystopia of death, misery and horrors. Eventually, Magneto gathered a mutant resistance and named them the X-Men in honor of his slain friend Charles Xavier. The desperate resistance finally bore fruit when a time-travel plan resulted in Xavier being saved from his accidental execution and the restoration of reality. The "Age of Apocalypse" timeline was saved from being unraveled by the Phoenix Force and continued existing as an alternate reality. The storyline began in *X-Men: Alpha* (1995) and concluded in *X-Men: Omega* (1995).

During a battle between Magneto and the X-Men, Charles Xavier used his telepathy to shut down Magneto's mind. Unexpectedly, the darkness within Magneto's ego infiltrated Xavier's mind, freeing long-repressed rage and negativity that ultimately manifested as a psionic entity of extreme power, **Onslaught**. Believing the only true way to bring about peaceful coexistence between mutants and humans was to eliminate independent thought and link every mind on Earth, Onslaught began an assault on the planet that created worldwide chaos. During a climactic battle against numerous human and mutant heroes, Onslaught's armor was destroyed, allowing Onslaught to become a being of pure mental energy. Believing the only way to stop Onslaught was by disrupting it from within, non-mutant heroes such as the Avengers and the Fantastic Four sacrificed themselves by entering Onslaught, which was then destroyed by the mutant X-Men from outside. Though the human heroes were actually sent to a pocket reality subconsciously created by the mutant Franklin Richards, son of the Fantastic Four's Invisible Woman and Mister Fantastic, the world at large believed mutants killed their beloved heroes, leading to an age of accentuated fear and hatred of mutantkind. Xavier mindwiped Magneto in *X-Men* #25 (1993). Onslaught's first full appearance was in *X-Men* #53 (1996). His assault on Earth began in earnest in *Onslaught: X-Men* #1 (1996) and came to its violent conclusion in *Onslaught: Marvel Universe* #1 (1996).

